

openings are almost horizontal; the dorsal begins on the head; the tongue is largely free in front.

25. *Letharcus velifer*, n. sp.

Body rather robust, somewhat compressed; its greatest depth a little more than two-fifths the length of head. Head large, abruptly tapering anteriorly; snout very slender and pointed, projecting considerably beyond the lower jaw; its length contained nearly 10 times in that of the head, and equaling a little more than twice the diameter of the very small eye. Nostrils with nasal tubes rudimentary, posterior nostril labial, anterior under the tip of snout. Cleft of mouth, from tip of snout, 4 in head. Eye nearer tip of snout than angle of mouth. Lower jaw short and weak. Tongue short, free in front. Teeth small, pointed, subequal, in narrow bands on jaws and vomer.

Length of head contained $6\frac{1}{2}$ times in that of trunk; head and trunk equal $1\frac{1}{4}$ times length of tail.

The dorsal is unusually high, its height at the nape equaling distance from tip of lower jaw to angle of mouth; it begins at the end of the first third of the head. Free end of tail rather sharp. The anal fin is wanting or represented by a minute fold near the end of the tail. No trace of pectorals.

Gill-openings large, subinferior, oblique, convergent anteriorly; their length more than 3 times the breadth of the isthmus and equal to that of the lower jaw.

Lateral line very distinct, extending forward in a broad curve over the opercular region to below beginning of dorsal. Four conspicuous pores on each side of lower jaw, three behind each eye, three at the nape in front of dorsal, one on top of the head, and four on each side of upper part of snout, besides a few smaller ones about the lips.

Color dark brown, slightly mottled with darker, not paler below. Head paler than body. Dorsal fin pale below, with a broad blackish margin.

There are four individuals of this new fish, which were collected in West Florida by Kaiser and Martin; the types are numbered 31458; they vary in length from 15 inches to 18 inches.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,
Washington, August 3, 1882.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF GORY (GOBIOSOMA IOS FROM VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

Gobiosoma ios, sp. nov. (No. 29672.)

Head $4\frac{1}{2}$ in length to base of caudal; depth $6\frac{2}{3}$. D. VI-15; A. about 12.

Body comparatively long and slender, moderately compressed, the back not elevated. Head long and low, rather pointed anteriorly; the

profile not at all convex; the premaxillaries projecting well beyond the front of the snout. Mouth very large, oblique, the jaws subequal, or the lower slightly projecting; maxillary extending far beyond the eye to nearly opposite the middle of the cheek, its length being a little more than half head. Teeth in moderate bands, slender, the outer series moderately enlarged. Eyes large, placed close together, as long as snout, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ in head.

Body entirely scaleless. Fins all somewhat mutilated, so that the numbers of fin-rays are not readily ascertained, especially in the anal. Dorsal spines very slender and flexible; base of soft dorsal forming about two-fifths length of body; the fin well separated from the spinous dorsal. Caudal rather short, its tip apparently convex. Anal fin long. Pectorals and ventrals mutilated, apparently of moderate length.

Color light olivaceous; back, sides, and upper fins speckled with dark olive; caudal with 3 or 4 dark olive cross-bars; head with some dark markings; lower fins pale.

The type is a female specimen 2 inches in length, full of nearly ripe ova. It was obtained from the stomach of a specimen of *Hexagrammus asper*, captured by the writers in Saanich Arm, on the eastern shore of Vancouver's Island, in June, 1880. The specimen has been somewhat injured by the process of digestion, but all the distinctive characters can be readily made out. Its slender body and large mouth distinguish it at once from most species of the genus.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, August 10.

**DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
IN THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.**

By H. C. YARROW, M. D. (Univ. Penn.),
Honorary Curator, Department of Reptiles.

***Ophibolus getulus niger*, subsp. nov.**

In a valuable and interesting collection of reptiles, from Wheatland, Indiana, made by Mr. Robert Ridgway in 1881 were three specimens of *Ophibolus* which differ so materially from the ordinary *Ophibolus getulus* that it seems necessary to assign them a position as a subspecies, and the above name is therefore proposed.

DESCRIPTION.—Color entirely black with the exception of the under part of the head; upper and lower labials marked like the typical *O. getulus*. Head-plates entirely black, not spotted, and in none of the specimens examined are light central spots on the head-scales to be seen. Verticals, occipitals, and superciliaries more elongated and narrower than in the normal type; frontals and prefrontals about the same. Abdominal scutellæ plumbeous white spotted, not yellow. A peculiarity of the type specimens from which this description is prepared is that the third, fourth, and fifth postabdominal scutellæ are entire, not